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Have hope
Looking for a brighter future
on page 6

Remember in November
Looking to the past, present, and future Veterans
on page 10

Room for everyone
Celebrating biodiversity
on page 2

A young fox looks into the camera. /Photo by Tammy Nash

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Naturally Yours

Biodiversity: how our ecosystem fits together

RICK WHITTEKER
Special to *County Life*

The question stemmed from a red squirrel scampering acrobatically along the forest floor on my guided hike at the Hike Haliburton Festival in September. People shared their experiences with squirrels, from chewed household wires to missing Christmas light bulbs. "Well … ahh … what good are they anyways!?" was the question delivered haltingly and blurted out when more subtle words eluded the speaker.

From the perspective of the pine marten, Cooper's hawk or the red fox, the squirrel provides the necessary food to survive and reproduce. Even most conifers can thank the squirrel for inadvertently planting their seeds while caching their cones, leading to new saplings in the spring. Understanding the roles and connections between species helps us to understand their importance.

As an outdoor educator, I used to lead activities with the goal of teaching the value of biodiversity. One activity had students build a simple representation of the web of life, with each student representing a specific species from the major biotic groups: plants, insects, mammals, amphibians, birds and reptiles.

Starting in a circle and forming a criss-crossing web, a rope was used to represent the connection or link between species. When everyone was in place and the web was formed, students were asked to gently lean back, feeling the support of a highly integrated web. Scenarios were presented resulting in specific species being eliminated. The rope was released by the student eliminated from the web and all the remaining students would feel the effect and physically experience the decreased stability of the web.

In this very simplified activity, representing the interconnectedness of living things, the multiple strands of the web embody the strength and resiliency of multiple connections, biodiversity and the important concept of codependency; all living things rely on other living things for their existence.

In the simplest terms, the loss of any species makes the ecosystem less stable: the more biodiverse, the healthier the ecosystem, making it more resilient to stressors like drought, disease, invasive pests and climate change. When species start to disappear, the system of checks and balances in the ecosystem begin to unravel.

Take a forest, clear cut it and replanted with a single species of tree. If an infestation breaks out, there will be little defense against a devastating loss. With diversity, there will be species that are naturally more tolerant and will survive, allowing the forest to keep a foothold and bounce back quicker.

For a wildlife example, the wolves of Yellowstone National Park in the U.S. were systematically eliminated from the park in the 1930s, freeing the elk from significant predatory pressure. Elk responded by staying in one area during the winter months and browsing heavily on willow, cottonwood and aspen. The elk numbers increased significantly. The fast growing, sun loving willow is a winter staple of beavers, so their numbers dropped to historical lows.

The reintroduction of wolves started in 1995. Trucked in from Jasper National Park in Alberta, this reintroduction set a trophic cascade of changes still being studied at Yellowstone. Elk responded to roaming wolf packs by moving more to avoid winter predation, reducing the browsing pressure on willows and other open meadow plants. Bison and beaver populations increased with more food being available, beavers going from one colony in 1995 to nine colonies and growing in 2023. Carrion scavengers including beetles, magpies, wolverines, lynx, bears, raven and coyotes all

see page 3

A forest relies on each individual species to keep it healthy and strong. /Rick Whitteker

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For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Craft Sale - Ladies Auxiliary
Haliburton Legion
Saturday, Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
An extensive variety of crafts created by 40 talented vendors will be available. Shop and enjoy lunch in the Schofield Room Cafe.

Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library Christmas Book Sale
When: Sat., Nov. 16 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Branch, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
Choose from a variety of gently read books: thrillers, mysteries, romance, biographies, children and youth selections, Canadian authors, fiction, science fiction/fantasy, sports, spiritual and other non-fiction books. Payment is by cash or cheque donation. All money raised by the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library supports library enhancements and programmes for all libraries in the county.

Annual Library Fundraiser
An Afternoon with R.H. Thomson
When: Sunday, Nov. 24, 1 to 3 p.m.
Where: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129, 719 Mountain Street. Haliburton
Guest speaker is R.H. Thomson, author of "By the Ghost Light". R.H. Thomson is also known for his role as an actor in Road to Avonlea and the Murdoch Mysteries. Silent auction, refreshments and an informative presentation! Books available for purchase on site. Tickets are $25, cash or cheque only. Tickets can be purchased at the Minden Book Nook or by contacting Pat Brezina at 705-286-1958 or Sue Sisson at 705-286-2000. Proceeds for this event support library programs throughout our county.

Recurring events

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. Five spins for $10. The first four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

Scottish Country Dancing
When: Mondays from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. until Dec. 1
Where: Fellowship Room of Haliburton United Church (10 George St.,)
Beginners absolutely welcome! No experience or partner needed! Please wear clothing you can move freely in and indoor (preferably soft-soled) shoes. Classes are $10 cash/class or register for the whole term for $110 (cash or e-transfer). Email haliburtonscottishcountrydance@gmail.com for more info or to register.

Naturally Yours

/Photos by Tammy Nash

from page 2

have benefited from the more regular distribution of carrion with wolves back in the ecosystems.

Metaphorically, biodiversity could be looked at like the game of Jenga. Canadian artist Benjamin Von Wong saw it that way and he designed a set of stacked dioramas representing different ecosystems in his elaborate art installation at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Columbia this fall. "All these blocks depend on each other for stability," says Wong. Too many pieces out of the game and the tower collapses. But unlike the game rules, in biodiversity Jenga, we can retain blocks or put blocks back in with proper conservation efforts.

Every living organism whether it be a plant, fungi, bacteria or animal occupy a niche, a role or function within the ecosystem they live. It includes the physical space an organism occupies, its habitat, its dietary preferences, its interactions with other organisms, and its role in nutrient cycling.

With millions of years of evolution, these roles and functions are very specialized and relationships between species are far reaching and complex, often hidden and not fully understood. Often human activity can throw the natural dynamic balance of nature out of whack, creating circumstances like the elevated elk populations in Yellowstone.

The question remains, "what good are they anyways?" The answer lies in understanding that a biodiverse ecosystem has more woven connections thereby making ecosystems more resilient to change and healthier. It is well understood that human health is directly linked to a health of the natural environments around us, an important fact that we need to remember whenever we interface with nature.

Black Friday Sale

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in-store and online

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giftshop

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Christmas Toy & Food Drive 2024

Join the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association and help us to make a difference!

As the Christmas season commences, The Haliburton County Home Builders Association would like to encourage you to include its Christmas Challenge in your plans. Large or small, each gift will help fill the Christmas hampers distributed by the Food Banks in Haliburton County. If you aren't sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates.

Option 1: Call - text 705-457-6901, email info@hchba.ca in advance to arrange a date to pick up your gifts. We will take them to the local distribution centers.

Option 2: Drop off your gifts at one of our partners. We will then pick up from there.

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Ridgewood Ford – 12560 Highway 35

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Emmerson Lumber Ltd - Maple Ave.
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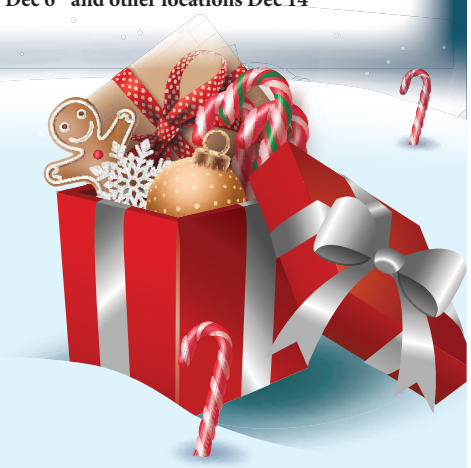

Connecting generations of memories

Gavin Sharman and his family have been coming to the Haliburton area for almost 30 years. Included in many of Gavin's passions are music and World War One and Two history. In 2013, Gavin and his family travelled to Normandy, France where he first visited many World War Two sites including his first visit to the Juno Beach Centre in Courseulles-sur-Mer, Normandy, France.

In June, 2024 Gavin and his dad returned to France. After first visiting some World War One sites including the Vimy Memorial, they travelled to both Dunkirk and Dieppe. Gavin and his father then travelled back to the Normandy area. They had applied through Veterans Affairs Canada and received tickets to attend the Canadian ceremony on June 6th at Juno Beach commemorating the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Upon returning home, Gavin's family researched and located Canadian Veterans who had served throughout Europe during the Second World War. Gavin wasn't aware of what his family were up to. With the generous help from the President of the Haliburton Legion Mike Waller, his family located Mr. Cecil Bailey from Haliburton and Mr. George Skinner. Both these men had recently celebrated their 100th birthdays at the Haliburton Legion. Also, with the assistance of the President of the Legion in Mount Albert, Ontario, Gavin's family located Mr. Jim Parks. Mr. Parks had landed on Juno Beach on June 6th, 1944 and he too had recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Each of these gentlemen then signed Gavin's ticket to the 2024 ceremony. The framed, signed ticket was given to Gavin on his 25th birthday in September of this year.

Gavin was speechless. He appreciates what these gentlemen did for our country and for what they did for him. It is important to Gavin to be a part of making sure their sacrifices and their bravery are continuously celebrated and remembered.

Submitted by Scott Sharman

Gavin at the Canadian ceremony at Juno Beach on June 6th, 2024. /Submitted

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m.
Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs)
Ladies darts 7:30 p.m. (downstairs)
Tuesday: Coffee and chat 9 to 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Coffee and chat 9 to 10:30 a.m. Mixed darts 7:30 p.m. Canteen opens at 6 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo (doors open at 5 p.m. Supper special every week) Canteen opens at 4 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 pm Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) 3rd Sunday every month at 2 p.m.
We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you.

Branch 129 Haliburton

Ladies Auxiliary of the Haliburton Legion is holding a craft sale on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Extensive variety of crafts created by 40 talented vendors will be available. This is a great day to start your Christmas shopping and enjoy lunch in the Schofield Room Cafe.
Mondays: Bridge every Monday, 1 p.m. Schofield Rm.
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. First Wed of each month - $1000 jackpot, rest will be a $500 jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Fish and Chips: Friday, Nov. 29 5 to 8 p.m., $15 for 1 piece, $20 for 2 pieces of fish
Wings, Jam Session: Friday, Nov. 22 5 to 8 p.m, $15/lb
Senior's 55+ Lunch: Friday, Nov. 22 at noon, $15/person. Call Denice Butler to reserve 705-448-8865
Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes Dinner : Nov. 15 - 5 to 8 p.m., $15/person
Karaoke: Nov. 16 - 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sandwiches served around midnight. No entry fee
CFL Grey Cup Party: Sunday, Nov. 17, 4pm, Pub Food and Appetizers, $5/person
Hours of operation:
Sunday: Special events only,
Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Closed,
Wednesday: 2 to 6 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 6 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m.,
Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.

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Storytellers of Haliburton County

Binding Shame

Life Inside a Cult of Obedience~ A Memoir by Sarah Patrick

JANET TRULL

Special to *County Life*

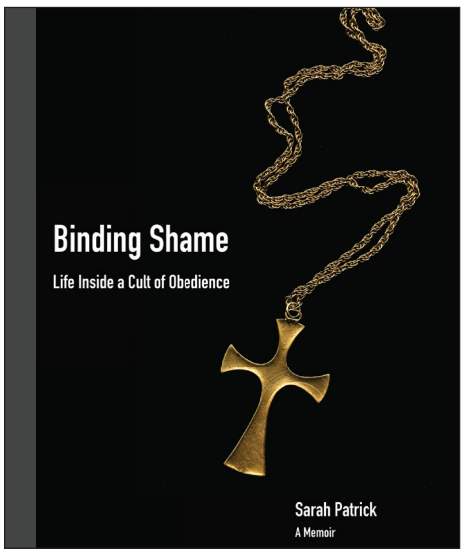
The definition of a cult is a group that requires unquestioning obedience to a set of beliefs and practices that do not conform to society's norms. Charismatic leaders control the members through brainwashing, emotional manipulation and various forms of abuse. Many wonder how this is possible, but it is no surprise to Stanhope resident, Sarah Patrick. As a teenager, her parents sent her to Grenville Christian College (GCC) in Brockville, Ontario which claimed to offer a superior education in a Christian setting. At the time, the school had a reputation for subduing rebellious behaviours, and Sarah admits to being a little bit wild.

Sarah Patrick tells her story in a new book called *Binding Shame*. After decades as a student and then a teacher at Grenville Christian College, she realized she was trapped in a prison, condemned to obey the rules of a sect that demanded respect for their authority. The college had connections to the Community of Jesus, an American cult that exacts compliance by shaming and blaming.

Grenville Christian College, with ties to the Anglican Church, was outwardly respected and attracted children of the wealthy and influential. Few suspected that, behind the impressive stone walls, young people were being indoctrinated into a cult. Systematically, the school's leaders used cruel but effective punishments and humiliations to wear away individuality and self-respect. They practiced strategies that ensured students and staff would obey extremist rules that replaced good judgment and destroyed independent thinking.

When the *Globe and Mail* wrote an exposé about GCC in 2007, Sarah was shocked at the allegations. She had devoted years of her life and work to Grenville. The report forced her to reflect on her past. She entered the school as a free-thinking teenager and gradually, as a teacher, she became complicit in enforcing the cult's indoctrination techniques.

Sarah's memoir is an honest examination of her experiences. She writes candidly about her mother's difficult journey through mental illness and her father's tyranny. She was no angel, and her disruptive home life made her a prime candidate for believing what the leaders told her; that she was chosen and special. "From my teen years into adulthood," Sarah says in the preface of her book, "I believed the leaders spoke for God… I was no longer able to discern my inner voice from the booming voice railing at me from the pulpit, accusing me of lustfulness, rebelliousness, idolatry, haughtiness and satanic desires."



All the freedoms and choices of young adulthood were hijacked by self-doubt and worries that God was unhappy with her. She made forays into the theatre world and university, but they were always clouded by the terrible knowledge that she was going against the teachings of GCC. The pull of her indoctrination got the better of her and she returned to the college. As an adult, the constant talk of sin and the erosion of individuality was relentless. Everything joyful was denied: having a best friend, giving children too much attention, taking pride in your home or your job. Any relationship that might threaten obedience led to calls for repentance.

Sarah's story will strike a chord with anyone who has met the challenges of a difficult childhood, a belief system that turned bad, alcohol dependence, and recovery. It is a story about vulnerable children and adults, willing to brave the humiliations and harsh punishments to belong. Sarah has spent the intervening years reflecting on her experiences. She is among the almost 1500 former students who won a class action lawsuit against the college for immersing them in a coercive belief system that used excessive and abusive punishments to achieve obedience. In 2020, the Ontario Supreme Court declared, "GCC utilized practices and polices which amounted to child abuse; they created an environment of control, intimidation and humiliation that fostered and inflicted enduring harm on its students."

Now, living in Haliburton, Sarah Patrick's life is full of joy and gratefulness. She is able to appreciate the creativity and freedoms that were once denied her. Her book, *Binding Shame*, published on Amazon, is full of unique insights, supportive research material and photographs.

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Send your letters to the editor to vivian@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Hope

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

A SINGLE WORD, many meanings. And it doesn't always have the easiest definition.

It's a word we often throw around. We add it to different terms and contexts. Hopeful. Hopeless. Hope so.

And really, hope is nothing more than a dream, a wish. An idea that something can be better, can work out for the good.

We look to hope to harvest our seeds, to grow our flowers.

We look to hope to watch our children thrive, to envision that they will flourish.

We look to hope to speak to the weather gods, to bless us with good fortune.

Hope is nothing more than the want, the dream, the wish for something to just work out.

And I believe that we are all innately born with hope in our hearts. With the idea that the greater good is out there, and that goodness will prevail. It has to.

As I write this, my eight-month-old son is on the floor beside me. He's got colourful letter blocks clutched in his sticky little fingers. A look of concentration on his fuzzy, furrowed brow.

And to him, the world is hopeful. Still bright. Still trusting. He knows that I will wrap my arms around him when he cries, that I will feed him when his belly feels empty. He knows that his sisters will always make him giggle, and that the dogs are good for a drooly kiss when he needs it.

He has trust, has warmth, has hope.

But as innately as that feeling is ingrained in us from day one, it can be whisked away at a moment's notice.

And losing hope can be the emptiest feeling of all.

It can happen easier than we think. A bully at school, a boss who doesn't listen. It could be watching someone choose cruelty over compassion, hurt over heart.

And the concept of hope; while ethereal and complex, isn't set in stone. It cannot be dashed away in one fell swoop. But gradually, over time, little pieces of that hope can be chipped away. They can crumble into dust; leaving the idea to be something that is sought rather than felt.

Much of the world lost a little bit of their hope last week.

When a convicted felon, sex offender, racist, and criminal in every sense of the word, was voted into one of the highest positions of power in the world. Chosen, by many, over a qualified, competent, professional woman.

I don't feel the urge to plaster names through this story. He's already gotten far too much air time, and, like many bullies, the more attention he gets, the more his power grows.

But when the world woke up to realize that he had once again been given a seat at the table, there was a collective cry. That hope we were all born with, crumbled away. We feared for our friends in the South; what it means for people who have already had to fight so hard for their rights, only to be shoved back down to the bottom of the mountain. And maybe, this time, not ready to start the climb again. Not yet.

Because with a loss of hope comes a feeling of defeat. An inability to move forward. What's the point. Not again. Always fighting. Never winning. Forever climbing, climbing, climbing.

Maybe we all lie still, just for a moment, at the bottom of the mountain. Together.

But one day soon, once we have felt our rest and found our peace, we can stand up again.

We can dig our heels in, and start our climb up the mountain again. The treacherous slope, filled with setbacks and cracks and pain and bruising. Forever climbing, climbing, climbing.

But at the top, there is hope.

I see it when people make wishes on their birthday candles, when they gaze in awe at the stars. I see it when they take pen to paper, airing and sharing the way their minds work.

I see it when a community comes together for the greater good; to wave rainbow flags and join in on the melodies that make our hearts sing.

I see it when my son looks me in the eye; seeking a promise for a brighter tomorrow.

One day soon, we can start chasing it again. That dream, that wish, that hope. A single word, with many meanings.

Top 10 ways to hint that you filled your deer tag

WE DEER hunters are a humble bunch. You won't hear us bragging about how our deer season went, and you'll never see a photo of a successful hunter with their deer on social media either (unless you turn it on.)

Having said that, we do sometimes hint that we were successful. The thing is you'd really need to be an astute observer to catch it. With that in mind, here are the top 10 subtle ways we hint that we filled our deer tags

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. Formal press release sent out to local and national media.
2. Paid social media advertising.
3. By hiring a respectable Public Relations firm.
4. The photo of a taxidermied Rudolph on this year's Christmas card.
5. Obit announcement for deer in local papers. Full story of hunt included.
6. Starts every conversation with, "So did you fill your deer tag too?"
7. Continually sighs and mutters, "If only they gave a successful hunter a second deer tag to fill."
8. When the hunter's new voicemail greeting is a recipe for venison stew.
9. When the hunter uses notched tag as ID.
10. Photo of deer suddenly replaces desktop photo of spouse/kids.

Visitor

Grey-feathered bird fluttering outside the window,
flecks of butter yellow painting its wings, as it peers through the glass,
the beads of its eyes, locking with mine, appearing every morning at the same time, for over three weeks,
tiny lungs breathing within the soft ball of its body, its beak, tiny as my pinky nail,
as it chirps into the Air, singing solo,
no companions accompanying it, only the crows, announcing their awakening
from the branches of the willow in the park across the street,
my ears straining to hear the bird's morning song, in the pauses between the crows' caws,
wondering what it's trying to say, muttering under my Breath, I see you,
as the grey bird with splotches of Sun on its wings, continues to sing outside the window,
lingering in the Air as I watch and listen, wondering whether it's a harbinger of something I don't yet know,
cursing the crows in the willows, as I uncurl my limbs and stumble out of bed,
padding towards the window, mumbling, Hello, but the yellow flecked bird flutters out of sight,
and I gaze up at the Moon, still dangling up in Sky, waning, like its light,
forgetting about the bird 'till it arrives again the next morning,
already fluttering out there, the moment I open the curtains,
and we stare at one another for a flicker longer than I'd meet a stranger's eyes on the street,
asking it again, in that muffled voice that sleeps deep inside me, what it's trying to say,
the burr-coloured bird returning day after day, always at the same time, some mornings lingering longer,
and on those mornings I listen to the bird's chirps with the kind of quiet that only comes upon my awakening,
before thoughts barge into my head, tearing the silence to shreds, like the crows in the willows,
as I stand at the window, my eyes searching for the bird, almost a week since the feathered visitor last came,
vanishing as unexpectedly as it arrived, and I lie, quiet, some mornings, wondering what it was trying to say,
wishing it would come back, so I could listen longer and deeper,
but maybe that was the message it was trying to convey,
that sometimes, something or somebody disappears as suddenly as they appeared,
and I took it for granted that the little yellow flecked bird would always be here,
fluttering outside the window each morning, letting me hear and feel
the fleeting beauty of its song.

Sylvie Kalenda

The elephant in the room, don'tcha know

Maybelle's **Fireside stories**

DEAR READER,

As I write this, the results of the U.S. presidential election are in and ol' Maybelle is exhausted. Yes, *exhausted*! If this race had been any more heated, our global thermometer would have burst. We'd all be drenched in sweat from a seismic sauna. Now, some of us are drenched in tears, others from smashing victory beers together. Yes, even in Canada, our feelings have been split about the election in the States.

For months, there was an elephant in the room. A huge floppy-eared multi-ton piece of looming concern that had taken our minds and hearts hostage for far too long. And had even divided us Canucks regarding our preference and reasoning behind the who, what, and why of it all.

It's far too easy to listen to only one news source whose agenda may be to skew commentary rather than provide facts, having you believe the worst of the worst which, if you did some research outside of that bubble, might put your mind at ease by putting light on what's real rather than fiction.

You see, not too many years ago, televised mainstream news shows were held accountable for reporting news that was incorrect. Remember when a news show would come on the next day or later that evening and formally apologize for a mis-quote or inaccurate factoid that was reported earlier? Well, I do! And I miss that, don'tcha know. What happened since then was -- laws protecting the public from receiving misinformation on news shows were changed and shows began popping up that called themselves "news" shows, but which, in fact, had and continue to have their own agenda, enabling them to simply comment on what they want you to believe rather than what really happened.

For nine years, we've been hearing such conflicting information that has left many family gatherings with empty chairs. Neighbours that "don't talk politics," for fear that Maude and Clifford might stop selling them their organic eggs.

Well, when it comes to what candidates, not only in the United States, but here in Canada, are saying, ol' Maybelle has a B.S.-meter that screams like a banshee to warn me of incoming nonsense. I thank my beloved (and dearly missed) mama, Maybelline, for that, don'tcha know. If ever there was a no-nonsense light-shining gal, she was it in my books.

So, what does ol' Maybelle's B.S. – meter look like? Simply this…

When all I hear from a candidate is finger-pointing, fear-mongering accusations that do nothing more than aim to make me feel angry, and that are based on zero proof, my meter goes ballistic. *Warning! Warning! Warning!*

And, when I hear a candidate who offers solutions and information based on fact, plus a strategic plan on how to get there with hope, respect, values, and dignity, my B.S.-meter is out of a job. My nerves are calm, cool, and collected and I feel good about the future, rather than fearful and angry.

It really is that simple. *And*, it's a choice. What do I want to feel? Angry and fearful? Or clear and hopeful and even excited about possibilities for the future.

Now, with the real threat of a myriad of U.S. government agencies being dismantled and/or gutted entirely, just how bad it will become is yet to be seen. I wish I had a crystal ball, but I don't. So, as they say on REAL news shows … "I will see you on the other side," i.e., when our story continues.

Til then, Dear Reader … hold the Light.

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. "Maybelle's Cure for What Ails You," 21 of Maybelle's best short stories, and "Vessie Flamingo Outshining the Moon" (a novel) is now available at www.amazon.com.

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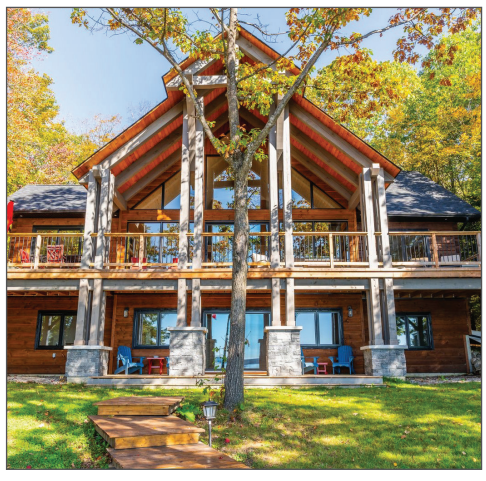

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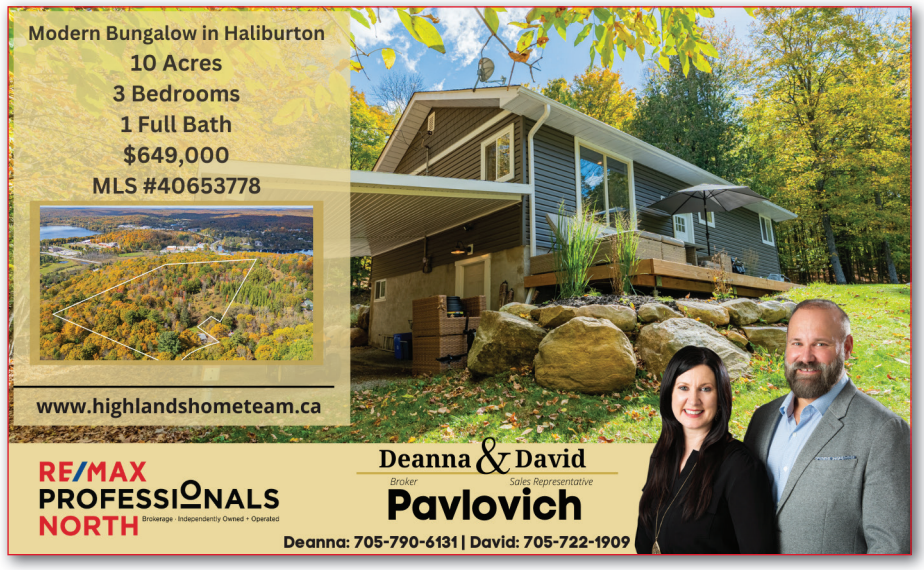

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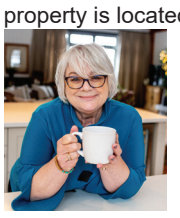

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Writing on the Senior Side

Taking the time to remember this November

GAIL STELTER

Special to *County Life*

This year's Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign was kicking off. The CTV evening news reminded me of this important annual event. A young woman was sitting in the front row. (Young in my world, perhaps just a little older than my kids.) Oh, I thought, why is the woman present at this event? Maybe she is remembering her grandfather.

My thoughts had gone right to the war that was closest to my life, the war that brought my father home unwounded and yet wounded, I will always remember World War II and each year in this newspaper story in November, I will ask you also to remember and keep the memories alive for our children and grandchildren. I have a section called Alice and Jim, the War Years in my family stories book. I tell my children and grandchildren about my parent's wartime wedding. I tell the story of the wartime birth of the son my dad would not meet until two and a half years after the birth. I share the homecoming, and I also have a story about the undiagnosed and then-unheard-of PTSD: no one comes home unwounded. These are my stories, but they do not go far enough. They do not reach out to the woman on the news.

She was identified and acknowledged as the mother of a young man who died in Afghanistan. I cringed. How thoughtless of me not to consider that. How forgetful of me to think of Poppies as a symbol of long-ago wars. Do you know that more than 40,000 Canadians served in the Afghan war? This was the largest deployment of our troops since the Second World War. The conflict lasted more than 12 years – the longest in Canada's history. I pictured that woman's son and the 158 Canadian soldiers who died in this war. Afghanistan was a very poor country, and its climate was extreme. I pictured her son and all the others in summer temperatures of 50 degrees Celsius and living and fighting in the dust storms swept across Afghanistan's arid deserts. Camp Nathan Smith was a base for Canadian operations in Kandahar for several years. It was named in honour of a soldier from Nova Scotia who was killed there in 2002. In total, 165 Canadians died during the war in Afghanistan (158 soldiers and 7 civilians). More than 2,000 members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) were wounded or injured during the war. Enemy action accounted for 132 deaths. These included deaths resulting from explosives (IEDs), direct fire, and suicide attacks. Here are the other causes: friendly fire - six deaths, vehicle accidents - six deaths, helicopter accidents - six deaths, accidental falls - two deaths, suicides -three deaths, unspecified - four deaths, and illness - two deaths.

Stats are easily listed and reluctantly accepted but each statistic is a life lived and loved. Here are but a few of those lives and lost:

On May 17, 2006, 26-year-old Captain Nichola Goddard from the 1 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery was killed during operations against insurgents. She was the first Canadian female soldier to die in combat. On Sept. 4 the same year, Olympic athlete Private Mark Anthony Graham from the 1st Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment was killed when two US A-10 Thunderbolt II ground attack aircraft strafed Canadian troops in a friendly fire incident. More than 30 other Canadian soldiers were wounded in the incident.

On Oct. 28, 2009, Saskatoon born, 26-year-old Lieutenant Justin Boyes, assigned to the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team from 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3PPCLI) was killed in an explosion while leading a foot patrol 20 km southwest of Kandahar City in Panjwayi district.

And, as you know I am a believer that no one comes home from war unwounded. Recent studies have shown that 40 per cent of the soldiers who served in the Afghanistan war have PTSD. An additional amount is said to have subthreshold PTSD, a form of PTSD where a Veteran will experience some severe symptoms of PTSD but not enough to be fully diagnosed with it.

Sometimes, as a senior sider, I feel so helpless. We were the "make love, not war generation." We wanted to stop wars. We failed and we went on to enjoy the gift of living in a great country. We enjoyed the freedoms earned through war and death by parents and grandparents and by sons and daughters who served in Afghanistan. We can't let this go unnoticed or unremembered.

It is also impossible to remember our war history without having thoughts drift to today. There is so much killing and war in the world. I am at a loss to speak to this. I wonder, where are the Canadian soldiers today and what are they doing? I found a page on the Government of Canada website that lists all the current CAF operations. They are everywhere in every part of the world as well as here at home, and they are involved in a multitude of operations. In the Middle East alone, the CAF has six different operations on the go. Stay safe out there young men and women.

Thank you to the woman on the news at the kick-off to the Poppy Campaign. You brought me out of the slumber of my well-used memories to a new place. You made me realize that I need to know about all our Canadian war heroes and the wars that made them so. Next time, I will take a look at World War One and the Korean War.

Remembrance Day is but one day in the year. By the time this edition of Writing on the Senior Side is published, it will be over. I paused and gave thanks and brushed away a tear. Perhaps you did the same. Together, we know that this is our story. I will continue to remember it not only in November but always. I hope you do too.

A Fixer mixer

The last Repair Cafe of the year was held at SIRCH Bistro on Nov. 3. The program will be put on hold until April, 2025. /TIM YANO Staff photographer

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At the Town Tree, there will be caroling at 5:30 pm and Tree Lighting at 6:00 pm

Canada Postal workers will be on the parade route collecting letters for Santa.

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Friends of the Library Fundraiser

JANET TRULL
Special to *County Life*

Actor and author, R.H. Thomson, will be the guest speaker at the annual Friends of the Library Fundraiser. You probably know R.H. Thomson best from his many roles on CBC productions. He was Jasper Dale on *Road to Avonlea*, and he played Matthew Cuthbert on *Anne with an E*. He's been an inspector on *Murdoch Mysteries*. R.H. Thomson has received many awards, including Geminis, the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement and the Order of Canada.

R.H. Thomson is the author of a new book called *By the Ghost Light*. This book is about the individual casualties of war. Human lives unfinished. As we recognize Remembrance Day this November, it is a real privilege to have R.H. Thomson join us in Haliburton to explore the stories we Canadians tell about war.

Like so many of us, Thomson inherited artifacts from the world wars that include photos of boys in uniform, medals for bravery, and even weapons. He was touched by the letters from uncles who did not return. "A family's strength – and occasionally its curse – is the stories it remembers, stories that create a map by which to navigate the years ahead," he says. This idea led him to imagine his ancestors telling their stories on a stage. As an actor, Thomson often returns to the stage after the play is over. It is a good place to reflect on the performance. His book describes a stage, illuminated by the "ghost light" where the reader is introduced to a cast of characters whose lives were forever altered by war. These include soldiers, grieving mothers, nurses, and wounded veterans.

Here in Haliburton County, we remember the war dead with cenotaphs, monuments and the recently refurbished Sherman tank. In Thomson's book, there's a photograph of a German trench mortar in front of his high school. He says that, "the narrative we all learned was about heroism and sacrifice in Canada's fight for democracy and freedom." Thomson has started an ambitious project to add to these traditional war commemorations. It is called *The World Remembers*.

He says, "We must never lose sight of the fact that history is not the history of nations or ideologies but of people." This project, currently available for viewing at the National War Museum in Ottawa, names every soldier who fought and died in the Great War. All 9.5 million of them, from countries around the world.

Join the Friends of the Library on Sunday, Nov. 24 at the Haliburton Legion, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Tickets are $25, available at the Minden Library Book Nook, or by calling Sue Sisson at 705-286-2000. Proceeds from ticket sales and the silent auction will go to support our dynamic community libraries.

/Submitted

Movement for everyone

Aging Together as Community and The County of Haliburton invite you to join us for a conversation with Meghan Cox, owner and trainer at Just Movement Fitness. She will explain why movement is good medicine for our health as we age.

Learn chair exercises, try Nordic pole walking, and discover other activities to try.

Tittle: Movement Is Good Medicine

Where: United Church, 10 George Street, Haliburton

When: Saturday, December 7
2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Register by Dec. 3, by email at atachhevents@gmail.com or call Connie Wood 705-457-7215.

You can also attend from your home by Zoom.

Molly's Bistro and Bakery will serve turkey pot pie, cranberry and walnut coleslaw, and apple crisp after the guests speak.

Submitted

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Haliburton Home Hardware Building Centre's November Artist feature: Dr. Norm's Custom Wood Working

My name is Norman Gerard Rondeau.

I have been a full time resident of the Highlands for 21 years. Although, my family has been coming here since before I was born. The family is now in its 4th generation, and my daughter is a graduate of Haliburton High School.

As a multi-media artist, my work has been exhibited in shows and galleries for over 30 years. My love affair with wood came into full bloom as a Timber-framer in the 90s. I choose to showcase nature at its best with each species of wood rendered without stains or colour manipulation. I also believe in using repurposed and rescued material to protect our live trees for the future.

Sewing Series

This display is a 'hats off' to my joy of quilting. Yes – I know how to use a seam ripper!

All pieces are made of solid wood, usually 3/8'' thick, not a veneer. They are food safe but not made for the dishwasher! A quick wash with a damp cloth will do the trick.

I'm not connected to a computer, so if you wish for more information please reach out to me by phone call or text, at 705-754-6444 between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. any day.

Thank you for your interest in this fun marriage of woodworking and needle crafting.

Items on display are available for purchase, cash only.

Calling local artists! We are now booking artists for 2025 and would love to see your creations. Please reach out to Karley.Gazley@homehardware.ca for more information.

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The Times

Minden

Number 1236

25¢

Wednesday, October 29, 1986

The world famous
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This Week:
MUSIC FOR YOUR EYES

HHSS honours top students

A capacity audience packed the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School auditorium last Saturday as students lined up to receive scholarships and honours at the school's annual awards night.

In his invocation speech, Reverend Ward Taylor talked of the importance of the search for knowledge, quoting the words of Solomon from the bible.

Then Principal Andrew Hemphill welcomed the crowd. "Tonight is a celebration of success," he said. "It is an exemplification of the maxim that if a job is to be done, it should be done well."

Mr. Hemphill thanked the staff, the school board, and the community for contributing to the success of the evening.

Making his chairman's remarks, Haliburton County Scholarship Fund chairman, Mr. Robertson Herlihey, also thanked everyone involved in the awards night; the students, the staff; the scholarship council and the donors of awards.

Awards were presented to the following:

Honour Students

Year 1

Katy Beach, Misti Campbell, Danny Connaughan, Shannon Curry, Lee Davis, Kelli Dollo, Heather Donaldson, David Emmerson, Jeffrey Francis, Dianne Garbutt, Roland Greber, Nicholas Holliday-Rhodes, Christa Irwin, Philip Johnston, Gerald Morrison, Darin Parish, Margaret Reiss, Mark Robinson, Krista Rydman, Alison Sisson, Sarah Stouffer, Darren Warburton, Sheri Whiteway and Kelly Youngdale.

Year 2

1 Year Honours

Jamie Bruce, Susan Flemming, Terra Mann, Ron Perrin, Michael Poppe.

2 Year Honours

Christina Bailey, Lorie Blackburn, Dwayne Cooper, Jaro Cooper, Aaron Davis, Deneena Davis, Tracy Emmerson, Tyna Hie, Christine Kasulke, Jackie Kleihauer, Susanne Long, Kimberley McCracken, Rowan Meggison, Nora Morrison, Terry Noble, Sheldon Perry, Jeleen Schroder, Robert Thomas, Robert Waller, Charlena Warder, Tanya Willis and Christopher Youngdale.

Year 3

1 Year Honours

Bradley Archer, Tricia Atkinson, Susanne Grubb, Derek Little, Marion Medcalf and Kendall Mintz.

2 Year Honours

Andrew Milne, Sharon Thornett and Gordon Wood.

3 Year Honours

Richard Beers, Lynn Bibby, Gina Brohm, Christopher Bunker, Andrew Cooper, Laura Cross, Judy Finlay, Darryl Goodall, Thomas MacLeod, Helga Myers, Lynda Pockett, Jeffrey Popple, Lyle Robinson, Clifford Smith, Lindsey Tashlin, Darren Whittaker and Lisa Williams.

Year 4

1 Year Honours

Kelly Gronberg, Michelle Landsperger, Alex Little and Shannon Robertson.

2 Year Honours

Gregory Hallman and Nicole Kanters.

3 Year Honours

Tina Anderson, Nancy Clement, Jennifer Gentle, Christopher Miscio and Sandy Sutherland.

4 Year Honours

Ian Cooper, Tony Hartin, Emma Postlethwaite, Barry Scully, Jamie Stata and Leanne Thomas.

Year 5

1 Year Honours

Heidi Tashlin.

4 Year Honours

Peter Allore and Tracey Jarrett.

(For more results and photographs, please turn to pages 14 and 15).

Smiling proudly for their parents and friends, the year one honour students pose after receiving their awards at ceremonies held Saturday evening at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

County Warden Harry Davis and Minister of Transportation and Communications, Ed Fulton discuss the route of their county roads tour.

Minister pleased with road tour findings

After his annual tour of Haliburton County roads last Friday, Ontario Minister of Transportation and Communication Ed Fulton said he is pleased with the way the county has spent its MTC roads subsidy.

The ministry regularly contributes a large part of all municipal and county roads budgets in Ontario. In 1986, Haliburton received approximately $2.8 million from the MTC - or 80 per cent of its total roads budget.

"I'm satisfied we're getting good value for our money," Fulton said in an interview after his tour. "There's certainly more work ahead, but so far I think the roads department staff and workers have done a commendable job."

The tour started Friday morning at the County Building in Minden and covered a loop extending to Eagle Lake, Haliburton Lake and Wilberforce. The route included county roads 1,3,4,6,14,16,18 and 19.

Acting as hosts were Victoria-Haliburton MPP John Eakins, Haliburton County Warden Harry Davis, members of the county roads committee Sinc Nesbitt, Keith Tallman, Dalton MacDonald and Bob Vick, and county roads engineer Bill Obee.

The purpose of the visit - it usually happends about once a year - is to give the ministry a chance to see how its subsidy is being spent and county roads officials the opportunity to discuss future projects. Or, as Warden Harry Davis puts it, "to show what we've done, what we expect to do and what money we'll need to do it with."

Davis said he is very happy with the way the tour went. "The minister was most impressed with the work that's been done," he commented. "These days, more than ever, the ministry is concerned about how its tax dollar is being spent. And rightly so, because its taxpayers' money."

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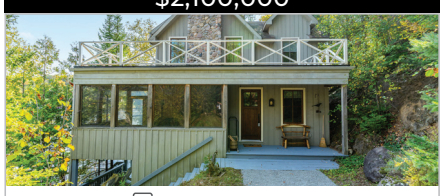
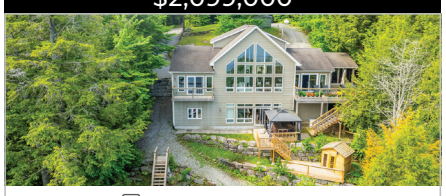
SOYERS LAKE
$2,100,000



3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# 40624213

KENNISIS LAKE
$2,099,000



5 X BED | 4X BATH | MLS# 40542149

LITTLE REDSTONE LAKE
$1,675,000

5 X BED | 4X BATH | MLS# 40598632

HALIBURTON LAKE
$1,250,000

4 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# 40645925

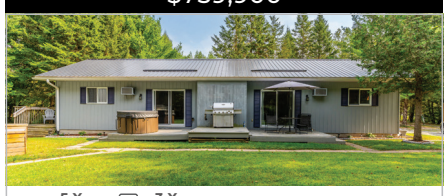
EAGLE LAKE
$925,000

3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS# 40659269

HALIBURTON LAKE
$799,000

3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40645912

GULL RIVER
$759,900



5 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# 40638549

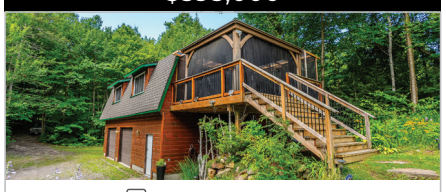
KENNISIS LAKE
$750,000

4 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# 40635394

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS
$679,900

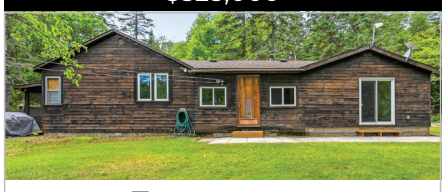
*DEEDED ACCESS TO MAPLE LAKE | MLS# 40655801

ALLEN LAKE - HARCOURT PARK
$595,000



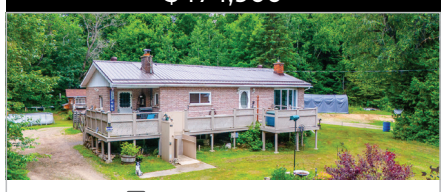
2 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# 40634507

BLACK RIVER/DRAG LAKE
$525,000



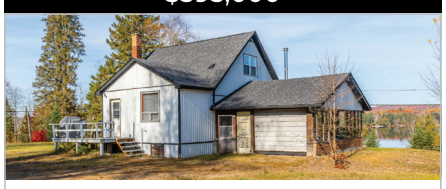
3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40602565

HIGHLAND GROVE
$474,900



3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40611581

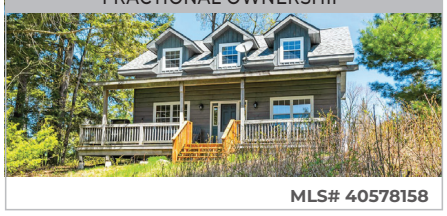
WEST GUILFORD
$395,000



3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40665518

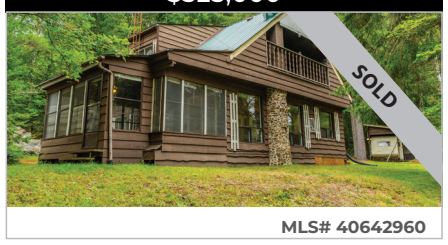
CHANDLER POINT
$68,500

FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP



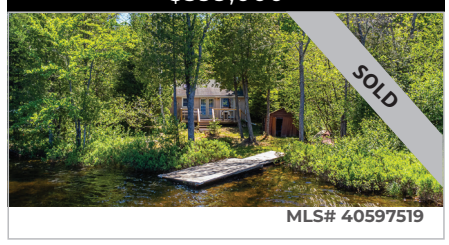
MLS# 40578158

BURNT RIVER
$525,000



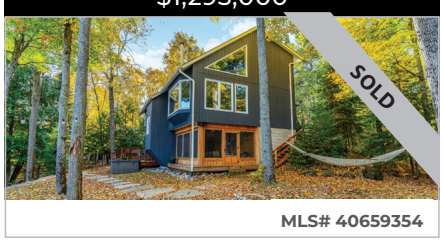
MLS# 40642960

PORTAGE LAKE
$399,000



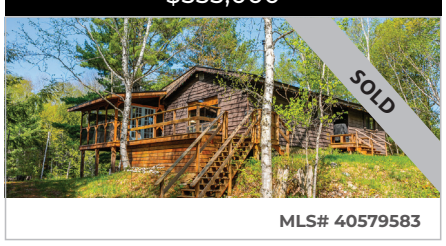
MLS# 40597519

SOYERS LAKE
$1,295,000



MLS# 40659354

FRED JONES ROAD
$555,000



MLS# 40579583

HALLS LAKE AREA
$649,000

MLS# 40612338

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MLS 40585911
$250,000
14.53 Acres

Basshaunt Lake Road
MLS 40647881
$109,000
2.19 Acres

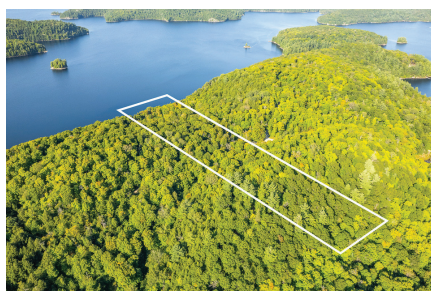
Bethel Road
MLS 40607822
$191,000
24.65 Acres

Redstone Lake
MLS 40641882
$499,000
18.4 Acres

Wenona Lake Road
MLS 40616395
$109,000
0.42 Acres

FEATURED LISTING

LISTED AT - $499,000



Adeline Trail

18.4 Acres

Redstone Lake

North-west exposure

MLS 40641882

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